

AMENDMENTS TO LB 522

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM709)

Introduced by Christensen

1 1. Strike section 1 and insert the following new section:

2 Section 1. If the Department of Natural Resources issues
3 closing notices prohibiting surface water appropriators from
4 storing or diverting natural or instream flows for irrigation to
5 comply with an interstate compact or decree, then the department
6 shall provide reasonable compensation based on the acre feet of
7 water not stored or diverted for affected water users through the
8 affected irrigation districts. The irrigation districts shall use
9 such compensation to reasonably compensate surface water users who
10 have had to forgo the use of water. Funding for such compensation
11 shall be provided through the General Fund and shall not exceed a
12 total of ten million dollars for any fiscal year.

13 For purposes of this section, reasonable compensation
14 means the dollar amount of compensation for dry-year leases used
15 by the natural resources district in which the irrigation district
16 is located for the conversion of acres from irrigated acres to
17 dry-land acres for a period of one year, not to exceed three
18 hundred dollars per acre, or, if the irrigation district is located
19 in more than one natural resources district, the average dollar
20 amount of all such natural resources districts' compensation for
21 dry-year leases used by such natural resources districts for the
22 conversion of acres from irrigated acres to dry-land acres for a

1 period of one year, not to exceed three hundred dollars per acre.